PEER ASSISTANCE AND LEADERSHIP I SYLLABUS – 2015-2016

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**Conference Period: 8th Period Cell: 969-4370 (emergency only)**

**Course Description:**

Peer Assistance and Leadership (Teen Teaching) is a course for students who are interested in leadership, being a positive role model to others, and teaching. Teen Teachers work with grades K-8 in a variety of ways to promote good decision-making skills and to exemplify what it means to be a positive role model. Each Teen Teacher must make and keep a drug free commitment for the duration of the course. Emphasis is placed on behavior that is congruent with positive peer pressure as role models and your awareness of this responsibility is crucial. If you feel you can’t keep this commitment, Teen Teaching is not for you.

**Course Content:**

Semester 1:

Unit 1 - Group Dynamics/Group Management: this unit helps students understand the 5 stages of group development, allows students to compare effective and ineffective group behavior and behavioral styles, and involves a discussion about trust and trust activities.

Unit 2 - Self-Awareness: students will gain awareness to how they feel about themselves and how others perceive them. They will also draft their class behavioral commitment.

Unit 3 - Group Management/Understanding Behavior: this unit helps the students learn the basic principles of behavior and identify factor which influence behavior, how "Conditions of Self-Esteem can be utilized to understand individual needs within a group, and the difference between discipline and punishment.

Unit 4 - Interpersonal Communication: this unit includes a discussion of body language, attentive listening and facilitative responses. This unit emphasizes practice of these skills.

Unit 5 - Leadership, Decision Making, and Problem Solving: students will study theories of leadership, characteristics and attitudes exhibited by effective leaders, and evaluate their own leadership behaviors.

Unit 6 - Developmental Stages of Childhood and Early Adolescence: this unit helps students relate different developmental stages to classroom behavior and interests of the students they encounter in the classroom.

**Semester 2:**

Unit 7 - Development of lesson plans: this unit will apply previous learning to the development of effective and appropriate lesson plans.

Unit 8 - Practicum: students will spend an average of 3 days per week in the classroom, one day planning and one day debriefing the week's experiences. Assignments will be with kindergarten through fifth grade.

Textbook:

There is no textbook for this course.

**Materials Needed:**

Students need a folder or notebook in order to keep notes, handouts, and lesson plans.

**Grading Policy:**

Semester 1 and 2 - 30% Field Work/Teaching Assignments – Unit Tests/Evaluations; weekly attendance at buddies and classrooms is **mandatory**; 70% Teacher Observation and Daily Work – observation forms, small projects, class participation, team building activities, etc.

A comprehensive final exam is given for the Fall semester; an individual evaluation the second.

Make-Up Policy:

I expect you to make up assignments within 3 days of your return to school. You may take exams during my conference period or before school - no class time for make-up work will be given.

**Classroom Management:**

Students need to be in class on time with appropriate materials. Because this class is primarily conducted by experiential learning, class participation is more important than in a more conventional classroom. Classroom management policies are consistent with the policies in the Eanes Code of Conduct. I am looking for behavior that treats all others and this school with respect and appreciation. Excessive tardies or absences (other than illness) will be grounds for dismissal from the program at semester, or reason for non-participation in the Pedernales Expedition.

The non-use commitment signed by the Teen Teacher is a promise to the community and our program to stay tobacco, alcohol and drug-free for the school year. If the commitment is broken, the Teen Teacher will be removed from active teaching assignments and possible loss of Live Oak Adventure and loss of the Pedernales Expedition. If the Teen Teacher wants to recommit to Teen Teaching and the sponsor agrees to a recommitment, there could be a period of probation assigned that would limit Teen Teacher-kid contact. Please consider removing yourself from the program at semester if you are not keeping the commitment.

You are responsible for attending class and all teaching/mentoring assignments. This is 70% of your overall grade. If you do not show up for an assignment it usually impacts the other Teen Teachers as we have to "scramble" at the last minute to adjust. When a Teen Teacher does not show up for a mentoring assignment, the child and/or the teacher can be rather hurt and disappointed. If you get sick, please e-mail me so I have some time to adjust - please do not just send a message with another student or only leave a message on my voice mail. Be sure to call the school where your "buddy" is so that a message can be sent to your "buddy" and your "buddies" teacher.

You'll be traveling to assignments in your own cars. Your responsibility is to be on time to your assignment, drive safely at all times - wear your seat belt, drive the speed limits, be prepared to teach/lead group, and to be back and on time to your next class without needing a pass.

Check your weekly calendar so you know where you are teaching and what your assignments are. It is your responsibility to make sure you have all needed teaching supplies and know where you are going to be teaching (school, teacher, and room number), not mine.

**Statement of Eligibility**:

As per student handbook.

**Other:**

Teen Teachers are involved in Live Oak Adventure in the fall. This will require you to miss 3 class days...either a Monday - Wednesday or a Wednesday - Friday. There is a major exam over the LOA experience. Live Oak will cost approximately $95.00.

The Pedernales Expedition in the spring is something that all Teen Teachers must apply for. **Not all Teen Teachers automatically qualify or will get to go**. Evaluation of your effectiveness throughout the year and your dedication and commitment to the Teen Teaching program will be taken into consideration and a major deciding factor in your involvement in the Expedition. The cost for Pedernales is $80.00, which covers the Harambe training retreat and the t-shirt.

**Dress Code:**

The school's dress code will be strictly enforced. It is important to remember that you are representing WHS as you go to various schools and teaching assignments. We must also follow each school's dress code when we are guests on their campuses - this means you may need to adjust the way you dress on certain days.